Rules 1955. The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs administering the provisions of the PFA Act have been urged to keep a vigil on the quality of Mineral Water sold in the market.

No specific complaint regarding marketing of spurious Mineral Water has been received by the Govt, from the Food Health Authorities of States/UTs administering the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules 1955.

Reduction in child mortality rate in Bihar

146. SHRI. S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that child mortality rate in Bihar has not declined particularly in its rural areas despite best efforts of Central and State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for such a situation whereas the child mortality rate has considerably declined in other States; and

(c) remedial measures Government propose to take to reduce child mortality rate in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALITEZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) As per information available through Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India, the Child (0-4 years) Mortality Rate in Rural Areas of Bihar has declined from 39.4 in 1988 to 28.9 in 1995. Major causes of Child Mortality include diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and malnutrition. Contributory factors include low literacy level, inadequate sanitation and lack of safe drinking water and low rate of utilisation of Medical Services.

(c) To bring down child mortality, intervention like Immunization; Control of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections; essential newborn care; and prophylaxis against Iron and Vitamin A deficiencies are being implemented in Bihar as paft of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The Programme also aims at improving utilisation through upgrading the quality of medical services.

New Exam Centres for Medical Entrance Test in Kerala

347. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for new exam centres in Kerala for medical entrance test;

(b) if so, what is the action taken in this regard;

(c) total students appeared in the last medical entrance test in the country; and

(d) State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT AZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination is being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India. This Examination is conducted in all State Capitals except in Maharashtra where the examination is conducted at Nagpur, in addition to Mumbai. Addition of new Centres at places like Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala was considered by Central Board of Secondary Education. Since the Centres are fixed in State/ UT Capitals only, CBSE has not acceded to the request.

(c) In 1997, 1,40,112 candidates appeared for the All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination.

(d) The State-wise break-up of the candidates who appeared in the All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination, 1997 is in the attached Statement.

Statement

State-wise Break up of the Candidates appeared at AIPMT, 1997

s. No	State/union Territory	No. of Candidates Appeared
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	151
3.	Assam	1201

s. N	State/union Territory	No. of Candidates
4.	Bihar	29311
5.	Chandigarh	955
6.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	07
7.	Daman & Diu	10
8	Delhi	8829
9.	Goa	276
10	Gujarat	1569 „
11	Haryana	5639
12	Himachal	2067
13	Karnataka	1847
14	Kerala	10029
15	Lakshdweep	10
16	Madhya Pradesh	6783
17	Maharashtra	8157
18	Manipur	429
19	Meghalaya	207
20	Mizoram	26
21	Nagaland	94
22	Orissa	3929
23	Pondicherry	553
24	Punjab	6733
25	Rajasthan	9427
26	Sikkim	10
2*7	Tamil Nadu	4066
28	Tripura	121
29	Uttar Pradesh	3182L
30	West Bengal	5376
31	Others	09
32	J&K	88
33	Andhra Pradesh	143
34	Others	167
		140112

WB aid for Malaria Eradication Programme in Bihar

348. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank aided Malaria Eradication Programme is being launched in Bihar and in other States;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the amount of World Bank aid received for the purpose;

(d) the States where the programme is being launched; and

(e) details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FA WELFAPE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The enhanced Malaria Control Project with support from World Bank has become operational w.e.f. 30.9.1997.

(c) The total cost of the Project is Rs. 891.04 crores including 15% share from the Government of India, spread over a period of 5 years.

(d) and (e) Seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan have been included in the Project covering 100 Districts and 1045 PHCs identified on the basis of Malaria endemicity and tribal population. The project envisages strengthening of Malaria Control activities in these hard core areas. Besides, 19 towns/cities are proposed to be covered for urban Malaria Control measures in this Project. However, for certain activities like Human Resource Development, IEC and Management Information System the entire country is proposed to be covered.

Ban on Pan Masala and Gutka

349. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a move to ban the use of chewing tobacco in pan masalas and gutkas in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the time-frame fixed, if any, for the purpose; and

(c) steps contemplated to rehabilitate the large work force connected with the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY